order dated 10.8.1999 of Hon'ble Delhi High Court, the Cabinet reconsidered the matter afresh and endorsed the decision taken by the Cabinet earlier in July, 1999 approving the policy of migration of the existing operators in terms of the offered package.

Modernisation and Expansion of Telecommunication in Orissa

674. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the modernisation and expansion of Telecommunication facilities in the country particularly in Orissa during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal mooted in that regard; and

(c) the steps taken to implement those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Massive modernisation and expansion programme have been drawn up for the country including Orissa State during Ninth Five Year Plan. The details of proposal launched by the Government for modernisation of the Telecommunication services in the country and in Orissa State are given in statement I and II respectively. *(See* below)

During 9th plan it is proposed to replace all electromechanical exchanges into electronic. The pending capacity of 3.2 lakh lines as on 31.3.99 will be converted into electronic during this year. All exchanges in Orissa State are already made electronic.

(c) The plans are being made on yearly basis for various activities of modernisation and expansion. These are implemented depending on the availability of equipment, infrastructure and funds.

Statement-I

Modernisation and expansion programme in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan.

(i) To provide telephone on demand by the year 2002.

(ii) To provide telephone facility in all the villages by 2002.

(iii) To provide STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialling) facility to all the Exchanges.

(iv) To Computerise trunk services in all the SSA (Secondary Switching Areas) Headquarters.

(v) Use of Optical Fibre technologies extensively in the network.

(vi) To replace life expired and technologically obsolete switches with new digital switches.

(vii) Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing village telephones.

(viii) To have reliable media for all exchanges by 2000.

(w) Computerised billing and accounting in all the divisions.

(x) To modernise fault repair service.

(xi) To computerise Directory enquiry services in all the SSAs (Secondary Switching Areas).

Statement-II

Modernisation and expansion programme in Orissa during Ninth Five Year Plan.

(i) To induct digital switches supporting ISDN (Integrated Digital Switching Network) & IN (Intelligent Network) for modernisation and for expansion.

(ii) To increase the switching capacity by 5 lakh lines.

(iii) To provide 4 lakh DELs (Direct Exchange Lines)

(iv) To provide telephones on demand.

(v) To provide telephone facilities to all the 46989 villages.

(vi) To provide STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialling) facility to all the exchanges on reliable media with digital connectivity all the exchanges up to SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area) level.

(vii) To have TAX (Trunk Automatic Exchanges) exchanges in all the SSA (Secondary Switching Areas) Headquarters.

(viii) Replace life expired and technological obsolete switches with new Digital switches.

(ix) To have telegraph offices in all the 30 revenue districts of the state.

(x) Cbmputerised billing accounting, fault repair services and directory enquiry services in all SSAs (Secondary Switching Areas).

(xi) To provide single window customer service centres.

(xii) To provide telecom facilities in tribal and hilly areas, industrial growth centres and sensitive border areas.

(xiii) Expansion of ISDN (Integrated Digital Switching Network), Internet and other new services.

(xiv) Introduction of WLL (Wireless in Local Loop), HDSL (High-bit rate Digital Subscriber Lines), OFC (Optical Fibre Cables) Technologies in the local network and CDMA (Code Division Multiplexing Access), PMP (Point to Multipoint) for providing VPTs (Village Public Telephones).

Telephone Connections on Demand

†675. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set out the target of creating capacity for providing telephone connections on demand in the country;

(b) if so, by when this target will be achieved in the whole country;

(c) whether Government have prepared an effective scheme to achieve the target; and

(d) if so, the total amount estimated to be spent on the scheme?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi